Present a Conference
on

PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF SELECTIVE COX-2 INHIBITORS

Sunday, 30th September - Tuesday, 2nd October 2001
Hotel Plaza, Nice, France

Conference Chairmen:
Professor Sir John Vane FRS and
Professor Tim Warner

Speakers include:
L Ballou Tennessee
R DuBois Tennessee
S Curtis New Jersey
S Fiorucci Perugia
D Fitzgerald Dublin
RM Garavito Michigan
S Hernández-Díaz Massachusetts
P Isakson New Jersey
GM Pasinetti New York
A Ristimäki Helsinki
D Simmons Utah
G Triadafilopoulos California
J Vane London
J Wallace Calgary
T Warner London
H Zeidler Hannover
The identification of the second cyclooxygenase (COX) gene in 1993 explained many puzzling questions relating to the actions of the non-steroid anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). This gene is activated in inflamed tissues by bacterial lipopolysaccharide, mitogens or cytokines and encodes for an enzyme (COX-2) with 60% homology to the previously characterised, constitutive COX-1. Prostaglandins (PGs) produced continuously by COX-1 support physiological functions such as platelet aggregation and cytoprotection of the stomach mucosa, whereas PGs, mainly PGE2, formed by COX-2 mediate the pain, vasodilatation and oedema typical of inflammation. Thus, NSAIDs which are highly selective for COX-2 will suppress the symptoms of inflammation without removing cytoprotective PGs from the stomach lining or preventing platelet aggregation. Since COX-2 is also induced in many tumour cells, such as those of colon cancer, the selective COX-2 inhibitors may provide an effective treatment for various types of cancer. Epidemiological evidence suggests that inhibition of COX may also slow down the progress of Alzheimer’s disease and raised levels of COX-2 have recently been shown in the frontal cortex of brains of Alzheimer patients at post mortem. Selective COX-2 inhibitors will also be useful to delay premature labour, since they prevent uterine contractions without inhibiting COX-1 in the foetus.
11.45 Inflammation, cyclooxygenase and Alzheimer’s disease
COX-2 expression in the brain of Alzheimer’s disease may be an indicator of progression of early clinical dementia. Moreover, recent evidence in our lab indicates that COX-2 may influence dementia via the altered activation of signal transduction pathways involved in tumour genesis. The elucidation of these mechanisms will provide an impetus to the development of anti-inflammatory therapy for Alzheimer’s disease.
Speaker: Giulio Maria Pasinetti
Mount Sinai Medical School, New York, USA

12.30 Lunch and Posters
Chairmen: Raymond DuBois & John Vane

13.45 Prospects for new selective COX-2 inhibitors
Drugs that target COX-2 have demonstrated robust anti-inflammatory and analgesic activity with reduced gastrointestinal side effects; recent research has defined mechanism based side effects and potential new therapeutic uses for COX-2 selective inhibitors. Newer agents with distinct pharmacological properties will be discussed.
Speaker: Peter Isakson
Pharmacia Corporation, Peapack, USA

14.30 Etoricoxib
Etoricoxib is a selective COX-2 inhibitor in development by Merck and Co. Inc. This lecture will provide a summary review of currently available data on etoricoxib, focusing on clinical safety and efficacy data.
Speaker: Sean Curtis
Merck Research Laboratories, Rahway, USA

15.15 NO-releasing NSAIDs modulate COX-2 gene expression
Nitric oxide (NO) synthase (NOS) and COX isoenzymes expression/activity is tightly regulated showing a high degree of interrelation. NO releasing NSAIDs exert COX-dependent and independent anti-inflammatory activities. There is evidence that NO-NSAIDs modulate COX-2 activity by interfering with the transduction pathway that regulates COX-2 gene expression in inflamed tissues.
Speaker: Stefano Fiorucci
University of Perugia, Italy

16.00 Coffee and Posters

16.30 Clinical efficacy data of COX-2 inhibitors - do we know what we need?
Numerous placebo and active comparator controlled randomised studies have shown that COX-2 inhibitors such as meloxicam, celecoxib and rofecoxib are efficacious analgesic and anti-inflammatory drugs equivalent to traditional NSAIDs in the treatment of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and pain. Additional information on effectiveness e.g. dose response in individual patients, analgesic versus anti-inflammatory potency, and dosing in special conditions (gouty arthritis) is needed to guide rational therapy.
Speaker: Henning Zeidler
Medical School Hannover, Germany

17.15 Gastrointestinal safety and tolerability data - worldwide
Large scale, randomised, prospective trials with celecoxib, rofecoxib and pooled analysis with meloxicam have shown excellent safety and tolerability profiles for these agents and significant reduction in clinically significant gastrointestinal events, such as bleeding, perforation and gastric outlet obstruction as compared to conventional NSAIDs.
Speaker: George Triadafilopoulos
Palo Alto VA Healthcare System, USA

18.00 Close of Meeting
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

DATE: Sunday, 30th September - Tuesday, 2nd October 2001
VENUE: Boscolo Hotel Plaza
12 Ave de Verdun, BP 206
06004 Nice Cedex, France

FEE:
French Francs 9,000 plus TVA at 19.6% (FF 1,764) which is payable in advance. The fee includes all scientific sessions, an abstract book, refreshments, lunches and a ticket for the Reception on the hotel on Sunday, 30th September. A special fee of FF 4,000 plus TVA at 19.6% (FF 784), payable in advance, is available for faculty members, physicians and researchers currently working in University Departments and Hospitals. Please indicate on the registration form. Payment can be made by French Franc cheque drawn on a French bank or by French Franc bank draft (all bank charges to be paid by delegate). Alternatively credit card payment can be made in pounds sterling (we will use the exchange rate in operation on the date of processing your payment). Payment can also be made by bank transfer in French Franchs to HSBC, International Branch, P.O. Box 181, 27-32 Poultry, London EC 2 P 28X, U.K. Account No: 38651750. Sort Code: 40-05-15. Swift Code: MIDLGB22. Account Name: William Harvey Research Conferences. All bank charges to be paid by delegate and payment should be referenced to the delegate's name. A copy of the transfer request should be sent with your completed registration form.

POSTER COMMUNICATIONS:
There will be provision for posters describing the results of recent research, subject to selection by the organisers. Abstracts must be no longer than 250 words including text, references, authors names and addresses. Deadline for submission of abstracts, which must be accompanied by registration and payment, is 6th September 2001.

It may be necessary for reasons beyond the control of the organisers to alter the content and/or timing of the programme or the identity of the speakers.

HOW TO REGISTER:
Facsimile bookings:
Firm bookings may be made by faxing a completed registration form to Dr Jenny Maclagan on +44 (0)20 7882 6084. These must be confirmed in writing within one week, accompanied by payment.

Postal bookings:
Please complete the registration form and send it to: Dr Jenny Maclagan, William Harvey Research Conferences, St Bartholomew's & the Royal London School of Medicine & Dentistry, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ, U.K.

CANCELLATIONS:
Cancellations must be received in writing before 6th September and will be subject to an administration charge of FF800 plus TVA (19.6%). It is regretted that no refunds can be made for cancellations received after 6th September 2001. However, if you cannot attend, a substitute may attend in your place but please let us know.

ACCOMMODATION
A number of rooms have been reserved at a special reduced rate at the Boscolo Hotel Plaza. A booking form will be sent to you immediately upon receipt of the registration form and payment of the conference registration fee. In order to obtain the special rate reservations must be made via William Harvey Research Conferences. Please do not contact the hotel directly.

ENQUIRIES
All enquiries, telephone bookings and alterations to delegate information to:
Dr Jenny Maclagan, William Harvey Research Conferences, St Bartholomew’s & the Royal London School of Medicine & Dentistry, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ, U.K.
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REGISTRATION FORM

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SELECTIVE COX-2 INHIBITORS
30TH SEPTEMBER - 2ND OCTOBER 2001

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